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CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

A Proposed Revision by the Committee on Revision of Constitution

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(In preparing this proposed revision the committee has availed itself of the suggested draft made by the Committee on Enlarged Program.)

Object

Sec. 1. The object of the American Library Association shall be to promote library service and librarianship.

Membership

Sec. 2. **Members.** Any person or institution may become a member on paying the annual dues.

Sec. 3. **Honorary Members.** Any person may be made an honorary member with full privileges of membership by the unanimous vote of the Association at any meeting.

Sec. 4. **Contributing and Sustaining Members.** Any person or institution may become a contributing or a sustaining member on payment of the required annual sums.

Sec. 5. **Life Members and Fellows.** Any person may become a life member or a life fellow by paying the required amounts.

Meetings

Sec. 6. **Annual Meetings.** There shall be an annual meeting of the Association at such place and time as may be determined by the Executive Board.

Sec. 7. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive Board, and shall be called by the president on request of forty members of the Association. At least one month's notice shall be given, and only business specified in the call shall be transacted.

Sec. 8. **Votes by Institutional Members.** The vote of an institutional member shall

be cast by the duly designated representative whose credentials are filed with the secretary. In the absence of such designation or of such delegate the vote may be cast only by the chief librarian of the institution.

Sec. 9. **Quorum.** Fifty members shall constitute a quorum.

Management

Sec. 10. **Executive Board.** The administration of the affairs of the Association, including its publishing activities, shall be vested in the Executive Board, which shall consist of the president, vice-president, treasurer and eight other members. The members of the Executive Board, other than the president, the vice-president and the treasurer, shall be elected as hereafter specified. At the annual meeting of 1920 there shall be elected by ballot four persons to serve as new members of the Executive Board. Immediately after their election they shall divide themselves by lot into two equal classes, of which the terms of the first class shall expire in 1923 and of the second class in 1924. At each annual meeting thereafter two members shall be elected to the Executive Board to serve for four years.

Sec. 11. The Executive Board shall have power to fill all vacancies in office, except that in the case of the death, resignation or inability to serve of the president of the Association, the vice-president shall become president.

Sec. 12. Meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the president at such times and places as he may designate, and shall be called upon request of six members of the Board.

Sec. 13. **Quorum.** Six members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

Sec. 14. The Executive Board shall prepare and adopt annual and supplementary budgets within which all its appropriations

shall be made, and no expense shall be incurred in behalf of the Association by any officer or committee in excess of the authorized appropriation.

Sec. 15. Policy. No question involving the policy of the Association as such shall be voted upon by the Association until said question has been referred to the Executive Board, and a report thereon made by the Board to the Association; but the Board shall make a report upon every question so referred to it not later than at the next session of the Association held after such reference.

Sec. 16. Votes by Correspondence. Approval in writing by a majority of a board or committee shall have the force of a vote, if conducted under the conditions specified in the by-laws.

Officers and Committees

Sec. 17. The officers of the Association shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer. The president and vice-president shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Association. The secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer, who shall be a trust company, shall be chosen by the Executive Board, shall hold office at its pleasure, and receive such salaries as it shall fix.

Sec. 18. Officers. The president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and assistant treasurer shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective offices.

Sec. 19. The Executive Board shall appoint all other officers and standing committees and shall fix the salaries of all paid officers and employees.

Sec. 20. Terms of Office. All officers and all elected members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the meeting at which their successors are chosen.

Council

Sec. 21. Membership. The Council shall consist of the Executive Board, all ex-presidents of the Association who continue as members thereof, all presidents of affiliated societies, fifty members

elected by the Association at large, and one member from each state, provincial, or regional library association or club which complies with the conditions for such representation set forth in the by-laws. The elected members shall be chosen, ten each year, by the Association, to hold office for five years.

Sec. 22. Meetings. The Council shall hold at least two meetings a year, one of which shall be at the time and place of the annual meetings of the Association. Other meetings shall be called upon request of twenty members.

Sec. 23. Duties. The Council shall consider and discuss library questions of professional and public interest, and shall from time to time issue reports thereon; and it may by a two-thirds vote adopt resolutions on these or any other matters of library policy or practice.

Endowment Fund

Sec. 24. All receipts from life memberships and life fellowships, and all gifts for endowment purposes, shall constitute an endowment fund, which shall be invested and the principal kept forever inviolate. The interest shall be expended as the Executive Board may direct. The endowment fund shall be in the custody of three trustees, one of whom shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting, to hold office for three years from the date of his election and until his successor shall be elected. No money from the endowment fund shall be invested or expended except on check signed by a majority of the trustees.

Affiliated Organizations

Sec. 25. (This section not yet framed by the committee.)

By-laws

Sec. 26. By-laws may be adopted and amended by vote of the Association upon recommendation of the Executive Board or of a special committee appointed by the Association to report thereon. Any by-law may be suspended by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the Association.

Amendments

Sec. 27. This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting at two successive meetings of the Association, provided that notice of the proposed amendments be sent to each member of the Association at least one month before final adoption.

BY-LAWS

Dues

Sec. 1. **Amounts for Annual Dues.** (a) The annual dues of the Association shall be two dollars for individuals and five dollars for libraries and other institutions, payable in advance in January. (b) On payment of \$25 annually any person or institution may become a contributing member; on payment of \$100 or more annually any person or institution may become a sustaining member.

Sec. 2. **Life Members and Fellows.** On payment of \$25 any individual member may become a life member; on payment of \$75 a life member may become a life fellow; on payment of \$100 any individual member may become a life fellow.

Sec. 3. **Unpaid Dues.** Members whose dues are unpaid at the close of the annual conference and who shall continue such delinquency for one month after notice of the same has been sent by the treasurer, shall be dropped from membership.

Sec. 4. Each new member shall be assigned a consecutive number in the order of first joining and paying dues. A delinquent member rejoining and paying his arrears of annual dues shall receive his original number.

Sec. 5. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

Nominations

Sec. 6. At least three months prior to the annual meeting of the Association the Executive Board shall appoint a committee of five, no one of whom shall be a member of the board, to nominate the elective officers and other members of the Executive Board, trustees of the endow-

ment fund, and members of the Council.

This committee shall report to the Executive Board, which shall after adoption of the report publish its nominations in the *Bulletin* at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the Association and shall place such nominations before the Association on a printed ballot which shall be known as the "Official Ballot." The board shall also include on such ballot other nominations filed with the secretary by any five members of the Association at least twenty-four hours before election, provided that with the petition containing such nominations or noted upon it, shall be filed the consent of the person or persons so nominated.

No person shall be nominated as president or vice-president for two consecutive terms. No more than the required number of nominations shall be made by the committee. The position and residence of each nominee shall be given on the official ballot.

State Representation in Council

Sec. 7. Each state, provincial or regional library association or club having a membership of not less than fifteen members, may be represented in the Council by the president of such association, or by an alternate elected at the annual meeting of the association. The annual dues shall be five dollars for each association having a membership of fifty or less, and ten cents for each person additional where membership is above that number. The privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences shall be available only to those holding personal membership or representing institutional membership in the Association or to members of affiliated societies.

Sections

Sec. 8. A petition for the establishment of a section shall be referred to a special committee to be appointed by the president, which shall report to the Executive Board on the desirability of such section. The Executive Board shall have power to discontinue a section when, in its opinion,

the usefulness of that section has ceased.

Sec. 9. Any existing organization of librarians having not less than twenty-five members may on vote of the Executive Board become a section of the Association.

Sec. 10. Sections may, if they so elect, charge annual dues, limit their own membership, issue publications, and in general carry on activities along the line of their own interest, accounting for their own funds solely to their own members.

Sec. 11. No authority is granted any section to incur expense on behalf of the Association or to commit the Association as such by any declaration of policy.

Sec. 12. Provision shall be made by the Executive Board for sessions of the various sections at annual meetings of the Association, and the programs for the same shall be prepared by the officers of sections in consultation with the program committee. Sessions of sections shall be open to any member of the Association, but no person may vote in any section unless registered as a member of the same. The registered members of each section shall, at the final session of each annual meeting, choose officers to serve until the close of the next annual meeting.

Standing Committees

Sec. 13. The standing committees of the Association, which are to be appointed by the Executive Board, shall be as follows: Auditing, (to consist of three members, to audit the accounts of the Executive Board, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, trustees of the endowment fund

and all committees having expenditure of money); editorial (a committee of five, whose duty shall be to secure and pass upon material for publication by the Association, especially catalogs, indexes and other bibliographic and library aids); public documents; coöperation with other educational associations; library administration; library training; international relations; bookbuying; bookbinding; federal and state relations; publicity; library work in hospitals and charitable and correctional institutions; work with the foreign born; standardization of libraries and certification of librarians; travel; coördination; work with the blind; program (to consist of the president, secretary and one other member to be appointed by the president); improvement of conditions of library workers.

Sec. 14. The Executive Board shall at each annual meeting of the Association appoint a committee of three on resolutions, which shall prepare and report to the Association suitable resolutions of acknowledgment and thanks.

VOTES BY CORRESPONDENCE

Sec. 15. Approval in writing by a majority of a board or committee shall have the force of a vote, provided not more than one member expresses dissent. If one member dissents, the vote shall not be effective until such member has had opportunity to communicate his views to the other members and a second vote has been taken. If two members, on the second mail vote, dissent, the action shall fail.